

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:97
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000
IMPORT EXPORT OF ONION
BASANGOUDA PATIL;RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of onion imported and exported, separately, during each of the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) whether there is a sharp increase in the import and decrease in the export of onion during the above period;
- (b) if so, whether the onion growers all over the country are protesting against the import of onion and are demanding further increase in the quota of export;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken to reduce the import and increase the export of onion in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.97 FOR ANSWER DATED 28.7.2000 REGARDING IMPORT/EXPORT OF ONIONS.

a) The following are the total quantity of onion imported and exported during the last three years:

Year	Exports	Imports
	Qty. (MTs)	
1997-98	333349.0	1711.5
1998-99	216485.9	3799.4
1999-2000	103338.9	Nil
(Apr-Sept '99)		

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India - Monthly/ Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

b) Increase in imports is confined to 1997-98 and 1998-99 on account of domestic shortage. Exports are based on the release of quotas from time to time keeping in view domestic availability.

c) There have been no imports of onions between April and September 1999. There has been demand for release of quota for export of onion from the growers from time to time.

d) & e) India is generally surplus in onion production. It is only in the event of a particularly bad harvest or any abnormal rise in the domestic price that import is resorted to. The Government has already evolved a Policy for export of onion. Under this policy, quantities for export of onion for the next crop year would be announced in advance. Besides, all restrictions on export of Bangalore Rose and Krishnapuram Onions have been lifted with effect from 26.4.2000. Quantities for export of all other varieties of onion for the current year would be released after inter-Ministerial review of availability based on harvest/ market arrivals. Of the quantity of 100,000

MTs. Of onion already released for export in April and May 2000, about 32,682 MTs. Are yet to be exported.